

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) comprising:
an agitator (1a),
at least one permanent magnet, (1d, 1e) and
a float body (1f), which are and
a bar having an upper end, a lower end, an upper end section, and a lower end
section,

the bar tapering into a tip at the lower end,
the agitator being arranged at the lower end section of the bar,
the float body being arranged at the upper end section, and
the at least one permanent magnet being connected to one another the agitator.

Claims 2 and 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance
with claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the agitator (1a) is formed symmetrically; and, ~~in that~~
at least two permanent magnets (1d, 1e) are symmetrically arranged in the agitator
(1a).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance
with claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the float body (1f) has an increasing inner cross-section at least along one part
section in the direction of the ~~second~~ upper end section (1p).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance
with claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

at least one vane (1h) is arranged at the bar (1b).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance
with claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

a permanent magnet (1m) is arranged in the float body (1f).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance

with claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the float body (1f) is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance with claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the agitator (1a) is made in a shape selected from the group consisting of a bar shape, a star shape or and a circular shape.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An agitating device (6) comprising a magnetic stirring apparatus (1) having a permanent magnet (1d, 1e) and a float body (1f), ~~in particular with~~ a magnetic stirring apparatus (1) in accordance with claim 1, and comprising:

a magnetic drive apparatus (2), said magnetic drive apparatus (2) and said at least one permanent magnets (1d, 1e) magnet of the magnetic stirring apparatus (1) ~~being mutually matched, arranged and designed such that they form~~ forming a magnetic coupling.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An agitating device (6) in accordance with claim 10 ~~characterised in that~~ 2 wherein:

the drive apparatus (10) has permanent magnets (2e, 2d) which form a magnetic coupling together with the permanent magnets (1d, 1e) of the magnetic stirring apparatus (1).

Claim 12 (currently amended): An agitating device (6) in accordance with claim 10 ~~characterised in that~~ 2 wherein:

the drive apparatus (10) has a plurality of electromagnetic coils (2f) which form an electric motor together with the permanent magnets (1d, 1e) of the magnetic stirring apparatus (1).

Claim 13 (currently amended): An agitating device (6) in accordance with claim 11 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the permanent magnets (1d, 1e) of the magnetic stirring apparatus (1) and the permanent magnets (2e, 2d) of the drive apparatus (2) are arranged and formed such that they mutually form a passive radial and/or axial magnetic bearing.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An agitating device (6) in accordance with claim 10 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein:

the magnetic stirring ~~apparatus (1)~~ apparatus has a toe bearing.

Application No. 09/912,695
Page 7

Claim 15 (canceled)